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REPORT of the Proceedings of the SECOND ANNUAL MEETING of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION for the Promotion of SOCIAL SCIENCE, held at Liverpool, in October, 1858. By WILLIAM TAYLER, Esq., F.S.S.

[Read before the Statistical Society of London, 16th November, 1858.]

HAVING had the honour of attending, as representative of the Statistical Society of London, in conjunction with Mr. Danson of Liverpool, also a Fellow of the Society, the Second Meeting of the National Association for the Promotion of Social Science, held at Liverpool in October, 1858, I have now the gratification of presenting a short resumé of the interesting proceedings which took place upon the occasion of that great assembly.

I may perhaps be permitted to observe, as a preliminary to the statement which I have to make of the proceedings, that if the brilliant inauguration in 1857 of that distinguished and rapidly-increasing Society, so ably and graphically described by one of the Members of our Council, was successful, the meeting of the present year may be confidently regarded as having been completely and eminently satisfactory.

The meeting, which in all comprised nearly 2,000 persons, was not only attended by many noblemen and gentlemen whose names have been long prominent in the cause of philanthropy and science, and whose works are an ornament to their country, but also by delegates from all parts of the kingdom, who, with the members and associates then present, gave their united energies to the great objects of the advancement of education, the promotion and repression of crime, the reformation of criminals, the adoption of sanitary regulations, the promotion of statistical knowledge, and the diffusion of sound principles on all questions of social economy.

In addition to the honoured names in the cause of usefulness and public good, of Lord Brougham, Lord John Russell, and the Earls of Carlisle and Shaftesbury, who acted as Presidents of Departments, and whose lucid addresses on the subjects of jurisprudence and amendment of the law, education, punishment, and reformation of crime, public health, social economy and the improvement and benefit of the working classes, will long be remembered by those who had the opportunity of being present: the meeting also counted a very large attendance of distinguished persons, among whom were Lord Sandon, Sir John Pakington, the Right Hon. W. F. Cowper, Sir James Stephen, William Brown, Esq., M.P. (so well known as the liberal founder of a free library for the town of Liverpool), and

many others who assisted upon this occasion; the meeting had, however, to regret the unexpected absence of the Lord Chancellor of Ireland,* so well known and distinguished as an eminent statist and reformer of our jurisprudence, to whom had been assigned the Presidency of the first department of Jurisprudence and Amendment of the Law.

The principal subjects brought under the consideration of the Association, were confined to five departments and the elements, principles, amelioration, and advancement of the various objects to be obtained were fully considered and discussed under the following heads:—

I.—*Jurisprudence and Amendment of the Law.*

In this department was discussed the science of Civil Jurisprudence, its bearing on the social condition of the people, the advantage derivable from a wide diffusion of its principles, the practical defects in our laws, the evils arising from such defects, and the fitting remedies.

II.—*Education.*

This department dealt with the various questions relating to Education, both industrial and intellectual, whether of the upper, middle, or lower classes of society, the foundation schools of the country, the connection of art and literature with national education, &c. It may also here be stated, that in this section a large amount of statistical knowledge was brought forward, and the department was continually crowded with members and associates of both sexes, who seemed to take an intense interest in the progress of this question during the whole meeting.

III.—*Punishment and Reformation.*

In this department were discussed the various questions relating to the prevention and repression of Crime, the reformation of criminals, the best mode of secondary punishment, prison discipline, and the management of reformatory schools and institutions.

IV.—*Public Health.*

This department considered the various questions relating to the Public Health and the prevention of disease; its object was also to

* The cause of the absence of the Lord Chancellor of Ireland, as stated to the meeting, was singular. His Lordship, it appears, was in the act of embarking from Dublin to Liverpool, when either he himself or the law officers of the Crown, discovered that as Lord Chancellor and Keeper of the Queen's Conscience, he could not leave Ireland without the special permission of Her Majesty, and the delay which took place in obtaining that assent, prevented his attendance at the meeting, but the members had the advantage at its last sitting, of hearing read the brilliant address intended to have been delivered in person by him.

collect statistical evidence of the relative healthiness of different localities, of different industrial occupations, and generally of the influence of exterior circumstances in the production of health or disease; it also entertained discussions as to improvements in house construction (more especially as to the dwellings of the labouring classes), in drainage, warming, ventilation, public baths, and wash-houses; adulteration of food and its effects; the functions of Government in relation to public health, the legislative and administrative machinery expedient for its preservation; sanitary police, quarantine, &c.; poverty in relation to disease, and the effect of unhealthiness in the prosperity and health of nations.

V.—*Social Economy.*

In this department were considered the various questions relating to Social Economics; the conditions of industrial success, whether of nations or individuals; savings' banks and insurance; the relations of employers and employed; strikes and combinations; legislative interference with the hours and wages of labour; legislative regulation of professions, trades, and employments generally, and of price and means of supply; emigration, its effect and true conditions; exercise of public and private charity, relief of the poor; industrial employment of women; industrial and economical instruction of the labouring classes, public amusements, and social economics in relation to education, &c.

In each of these departments, information, statistical illustrations, and important discussions ensued, and a very large number of papers were read tending to promulgate the advancement of knowledge and the improvement and welfare of the labouring classes; and the details connected with the various subjects of science, necessarily required a constant reference to statistical statements and tables. The papers more specifically relating to Statistics, read at this meeting by Dr. Farr on the Influence of Marriage on the French people; by Mr. Danson on the Office and Duty of the Statist, relating to Social Economy; and others connected with this Society, fully sustained the reputation which has so frequently distinguished the Members of the Statistical Society of London. The papers of Professor More on Mutual Life Insurance and Benefit Societies; and of Lord Brougham on the Statistical Use and Progress of Cheap Literature, and his admirable address to the Working Classes; of Mr. Edward Akroyd, M.P., on Penny Savings' Banks, and their extension by means of country associations; and last though not the least in interest, an instructive paper from Miss Florence Nightingale, on the Health of Hospitals, illustrated by her practical experience during her noble mission to the Crimea, excited great interest and attention.
